



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/608,631	06/27/2003	Edwin Bolduan	ZTP00P12060	9862
24131	7590	01/11/2005	EXAMINER	
LERNER AND GREENBERG, PA P O BOX 2480 HOLLYWOOD, FL 33022-2480			STINSON, FRANKIE L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1746	

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/608,631

Applicant(s)

BOLDUAN ET AL.

Examiner

FRANKIE L. STINSON

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16, 18 and 19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16, 18 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

1. In view of applicants broadening of the claims by deleting the limitation of having the laundry "suspended" on the conveyor and the examiner's subsequent broader reading of the claims, the indicated allowability of claims 12, 13 and 17 is withdrawn in view of said broadening of the claims and broader reading of the Manuel patent.

Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the mesh as claimed in claim 14, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will

be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being  
by clearly anticipated by Manuel (U. S. Pat. No. 3,827,262),

Re claim 1, Manuel is cited disclosing a washing machine, comprising: a housing (unnumbered); a conveyor (14) disposed in said housing for moving the laundry goods in a circulation in said housing (NOTE: circulation has been defined as “the transmission or passage of anything from place to place”; Random House college Dictionary, 1980); a suds application device (16, see col. 2, lines 47-52) device at least partially disposed in said housing for applying suds to the laundry goods; a cleaning device at (18, 20, 24, 26) least partially disposed in said housing for removing dissolved dirt from the laundry goods; and an integrated smoothing and pressing device (22, 23, 28) for smoothing and pressing the laundry goods. Re claim 2, Manuel discloses the laundry being substantially parallel with the wall (the longitudinal sidewall). Re claim 4, Manuel discloses the conveyor belt or chain. Re claim 5, Manuel discloses the hook/hanger. Re claims 7 and 8, Manuel discloses the suds and cleaning devices being disposed in a given area of the area of circulation. Re claim 9, Manuel discloses the spraying device (42, 40). Re claim 10, Manuel discloses the rinse (70, 72, 32). Re claim 11, Manuel

discloses the pre-humidification device (22, 23, 28). Re claim 12, Manuel discloses a washing machine, comprising: a housing (unnumbered); a conveyor (14) disposed in said housing for moving laundry goods in a circulation in said housing (i.e., transmission or passage from place to place); a suds application device (16) at least partially disposed in said housing for applying suds to the laundry goods; a cleaning device (18, 20, 24, 26) at least partially disposed in said housing for removing dissolved dirt from the laundry goods; and a pre-dehumidification device (22, 23, 28) disposed in a given area of said circulation for at least partially removing liquid from the laundry goods, said pre-dehumidification device having a pair of rollers through which the laundry goods are pulled. Re claim 13, Manuel discloses a washing machine, comprising: a housing; a conveyor disposed in said housing for moving laundry goods in a circulation in said housing; a suds application device at least partially disposed in said housing for applying suds to the laundry goods; a cleaning device at least partially disposed in said housing for removing dissolved dirt from the laundry goods; and a pre-dehumidification device disposed in a given area of said circulation for at least partially removing liquid from the laundry goods; said pre-dehumidification device having: an absorbable fleece (see col. 3, lines 66-67); and at least one roller (the core) for pressing the laundry goods against said fleece; and said fleece being, at least during pressing, substantially guided parallel to a motion of the respective laundry goods.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 14-16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manuel in view of Bahnsen (U. S. Pat. No. 3,499,176).

Claim 14 defines over Manuel only in the recitation of the pre-dehumidification device having an air-supplying device to apply compressed air to the laundry goods. Bahnsen is each cited disclosing a washing machine for laundry goods, where there is provided (see fig. 16 and col. 21, line 4, through col. 22 line 20, especially line 73) where there is provided a pre-dehumidification device (260) having an compressed air supplying (285) for supplying compressed to the laundry goods. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Manuel to include compressed air supplying means as taught by Bahnsen, for the purpose of aiding in the removal of moisture from the laundry goods. Re claim 15, Bahnsen also discloses the mesh (276). Re claim 16, Bahnsen also discloses the integrated drying device (see fig. 16). Re claim 19, Manuel discloses a washing machine comprising a housing; means (14) for transporting the laundry goods in a circulation in said housing; means (42, 40) for applying suds to the laundry goods; means (18, 20, 24, 26) for removing dissolved dirt from the laundry goods means (22, 23, 28) for at least partially removing liquid from the laundry goods disposed in a given area of said circulation, that differs from the claim only in the recitation of the compressed air supply and the receiving mesh. Therefore, Bahnsen is cited as applied to the subject matter of claims 14 and 15 directly above.

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manuel in view of Smull.

Claim 6 defines over Manuel only in the recitation of the conveyor having conveying states of stationary, constant speed and back and forth movement. Smull is cited disclosing in a conveyorized washing system the arrangement of the conveyor having the states as claimed (see col. 7, lines 15-33). It therefore would to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Manuel, to have the conveyor having conveying states as taught by Smull, for the purpose of customizing the washing process. Clearly it is old and well known to adjust the wash process dependent upon the type of dirt and the type of material being clean, i.e., heavy material like denim and light material like linen. The thicker material would obviously require a deeper cleaning and the type of soils (grass stains or body dirt) would also dictate the amount of time and the amount of cleaning solution etc. to be employed by the user.

8. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manuel in view of Smith (U. S. Pat. No. 2,732,701).

Claim 18, defines over Manuel only in the recitation of the members disposed on the conveyor for holding the laundry, where hot air is introduced into the laundry goods through said members. Smith is cited disclosing the members ("C", see fig. 5) for introducing hot air into the laundry goods. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Manuel, to include hot air introducing members as taught by Smith for the purpose of drying the laundry goods and since Manuel desired to have the laundry goods completely dried (see Manuel col. 4, lines 43-46). The employment of forced air dryer is obviously more efficient in terms

of time saved by the user in the washing/drying process, and the forced air as employed by Smith inherently provides for the removal of wrinkles in Smith.

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16, 18 and 19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

It should be noted that while applicant claims "a circulation", it is suggested that --recirculation-- be incorporated into the claims to describe the movement of the goods in the housing since it is the opinion of the examiner that this is a more precise description of the movement, versus the broad circulation, which as by definition, is taught by the applied prior art.

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.



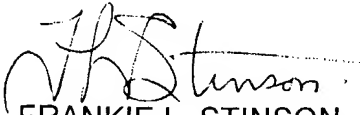
11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In Bold et al., Keilhack, Bahnsen'672, Bounds et al., Krauss et al., Ermisch and Vigerst, note the washing and conveying means .

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRANKIE L. STINSON whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 5:30 am to 2:30 and some Saturdays from approximately 7:30 am to 1:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr, can be reached on (571) 272-1700. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

fls

  
FRANKIE L. STINSON  
Primary Examiner  
GROUP ART UNIT 1746